



26th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

COVID-19 PARENTAL UPDATE

I hope that this period of remote learning has started as well as possible for you and your children and that everyone in your family is in good health and staying safe. We have seen that many of you have been accessing work on the variety of online platforms we use and I hope that this has proved helpful. Staff have been impressed with the quality of work submitted from pupils in all years and it is clear that many pupils have thrown themselves fully into this new way of working. I am proud of our young people's resilience and determination – please encourage them to keep this up!

Having said this, I recognise that it is not easy to adjust to a new way of learning and should you have any subject issues please contact the class teacher via Synergy. If you have any technical issues we have set up a discrete email address help@thehollins.com and our IT Network Manager will assist you in dealing with password and login issues. One aspect many parents have found useful is to have a routine in place that is followed daily. There is already a timetable in place for years 7 and 8, that was shared previously, and devising your own for years 9 -11 would also be beneficial.

We will continue to set work next week but for the duration of the Easter holidays there will only be the usual holiday homework set. It seems very likely that we will still be closed after Easter and we will then resume setting work on a weekly basis. We will continue to review our online working procedures and make any necessary changes as we go forward.

We have been providing supervision in school for the children of key workers and for some of our vulnerable pupils. This will continue next week. Wherever possible pupils should remain at home where they are safest, but if you need our support please email enquiries@thehollins.com We have ensured all hygiene measures are in place and that social distancing is maintained in the classroom. I am very grateful to my colleagues who have come into school to help supervise these pupils and also to those who are doing it in the coming days and weeks. To support all my colleagues, the vast majority are now working from home. We are still very busy and school is continuing to function well using online meetings to communicate.

As you will know we received confirmation that GCSE exams for year 11 would be cancelled. The latest advice can be found by right clicking here and opening the hyperlink <https://tinyurl.com/ra99jb9> We are expecting further guidance from DfE sometime next week about what they want from us in terms of information and estimated grades for year 11 pupils. I will let you know more when I receive the information. It goes without saying that we will do everything we can to support our year 11 pupils but in the meantime it is important that year 11 check their Synergy and Google Classroom accounts and ensure that they complete the work set. No learning is ever lost and continuing to study will stand all our pupils in the best position for beginning new courses in September.

We have also supported our Free School Meal families, this week, with deliveries of food to their homes. We hope to be moving to vouchers from next week and you will receive further information from us regarding this. Please be aware that there is a scam going round with someone posing to be from Lancashire County Council and asking parents for their bank details to allow them to keep their Free School Meal entitlement. If this happens please report it to the police. There are a number of

bogus coronavirus scams going on such as offers of door to door coronavirus testing; offers of hand sanitizer, which is fake; offers of holiday refunds; claiming to be your bank or insurance company regarding making a claim and selling tainted essential products at inflated prices. Please be careful during this challenging time.

In conclusion I hope that you and your families remain safe and well but should you need to get in touch with us please use the methods mentioned above.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Campbell

Headteacher